



Contact:
Abby Strickland
Director of Communications
Direct: 865.521.2317
Cell: 423.331.4344
astrickland@knoxvillesymphony.com

PRESS RELEASE

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350+ STUDENTS TO PERFORM IN KNOXVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

WINTER CONCERTS THIS MONTH

Knoxville, TN – February 12, 2020 – The Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra (KSYO) will present TWO winter concerts on **Monday, February 17 and Monday, February 24 at the Tennessee Theatre**, featuring five youth orchestras and the winners of the 2019-20 Concerto Competition. These concerts are sponsored by Richard Fox and Ralph Cianelli. These concerts are free to attend for students K-12 and \$5 at the door for adults. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Before each performance, patrons can dine at Bistro at the Bjiou (807 S. Gay Street) and a portion of their purchase will be donated to the KSYO (please tell your servers you are dining to support the KSYO).

1. The KSYO Winter Concert will take place on **Monday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.** featuring the Preludium, Philharmonia, Sinfonia and Youth Chamber Orchestras. Each Orchestra consists of approximately 50-80 students who will perform 6-10 minutes of music under its respective conductor. KSO Principal Horn, Jeffery Whaley will join the Youth Chamber Orchestra for Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 1 in D Major.
2. The top Youth Orchestra, conducted by James Fellenbaum, will perform on **Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.** featuring the Concerto Competition winners: **Miriam Ahrens**, a sophomore student at Hardin Valley Academy and **Trey Barrett**, a junior at Hardin Valley Academy. Miriam Ahrens, viola, will perform a movement from Cecil Forsyth's Concerto for Viola and Orchestra in G Minor, and Trey Barrett, bassoon, will perform Carl Maria von Weber's Andante and Rondo Ungarese.

Miriam Ahrens began her musical studies at age four with Suzuki piano lessons. At the age of six, she started asking to play the viola and began lessons with Connie Stambaugh, in Lebanon, PA. Over the years, Miriam has had the privilege of studying with several teachers as her family has lived in three different states. In 2014, her family moved to Knoxville, TN, and for the past three years Miriam has studied with Megan Kehren. She has been a member of the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra serving as a member of the viola section as well as principal viola in the 2018-2019 season. Miriam has attended the Wintergreen Music Festival in Wintergreen, VA and was honored with a full scholarship to the Masterworks Festival in Spartanburg, SC. A sophomore at Hardin Valley Academy,

Miriam is actively involved in Young Life and is a member of the sign language club. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, playing piano, and driving manual cars.

Trey Barrett is a Junior at Hardin Valley Academy and has been a member of the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra for the past two years as Principal Bassoon. Trey began his bassoon training at the age of 12 with Aaron Apaza, past Principal Bassoon with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and Lecturer of Bassoon at UT Knoxville, and current Principal Bassoon with the North Carolina Symphony in Raleigh, North Carolina. In January of 2020, Trey began studying with Jessica Findley Yang, Acting Principal Bassoon with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and Lecturer of Bassoon at UT Knoxville. As a Freshman, Trey was invited to join the Tennessee Wind Symphony as a high school "Rising Star." Trey is also a member of the Hardin Valley Academy Wind Ensemble. Trey was selected for All State both Freshman and Sophomore years after placing 1st chair, blue band in the All State East Clinic. In June 2019, Trey auditioned for and was selected out of an international candidate pool to attend the Advanced Bassoon Institute at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan.

ABOUT THE KSYO

The Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra is currently celebrating its 46th season. More than 350 students were selected by an audition process in August. In addition to weekly rehearsals, the students will perform four concerts throughout the 2019-2020 season. All four performances take place at the Tennessee Theatre and are open to the public. For more information **regarding the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra, please visit www.knoxvillesymphony.com.**

Social Media: The KSYO Winter Concerts are Feb. 17th and 24th at @tntheatre. Don't miss these concerts as we celebrate the top young players in the area! [Follow @knoxsymphony on Twitter](#) and [Like KSO on Facebook](#).